

In attendance:

Stacy Parsons (Chairing)

Dean Maynard

Jack Hickey

Rich Weisenflue

Joe Trybus

*No public hearings posted or requested for this month.*

Other Business:

- Bill DeCelles requested a site visit to 31 Narragansett regarding a drainage issue. S. Parsons will meet with him on site on 10/8/14.
- Reviewed drainage concern on Putnam Road. Will revisit once the ground freezes to be able to access the site. Septic could be in danger if conditions continue.
- Reviewed National Grid Utility Maintenance Notification received via email on 9/29/14. No further action needed.
- Reviewed Friends of Pontoosuc Lake Bulletin issued on 9/28/14 regarding lake drawdown commencing on 10/15, 5-foot drawdown by 12/15, refill to 3-foot drawdown by 1/31, and complete refill after ice out.
- Shared ID Badge email sent from D. Stevens.
- Informational meeting with Ron Tinkham who shared information regarding property on Narragansett Avenue with drainage issue. S. Parsons and B. DeCelles will be conducting a site visit on 10/7/14.

Mark Stinson, DEP Circuit Rider, visiting.

- New WPA regulations effective 10/24/14. DEP Staff receiving training on the new regulations on 10/23/14.
- Offered to provide technical assistance for any upcoming road projects. S. Parsons will contact Bill DeCelles. Also offered to provide training for Diane on WPA regulations specific to postings.
- P. Seiloff discussed concerns about flooding associated with Town Brook due to downed trees, woody debris, and changes in stream direction. Citizens are concerned about losing parts of their yard. Work in the riverfront area would be outside the jurisdiction of the Army Corp. M. Stinson recommended not taking any action. Woody debris provides wildlife habitat and the flooding is on private property not controlled by the Town. If property owner would like to address the issue, he recommended that they hire an engineer to design a plan to redirect/return the stream to the channel.
- Discussed the emergency certification process. S. Parsons will share guidance with P. Seiloff. An imminent danger to public health and safety must be present to be eligible for an emergency certification. A site visit

must be conducted and an emergency permits must be issued within 48 hours of notification.

- Discussed vernal pool certification process. Anyone going on property to certify a vernal pool would have to ask the property owner for permission. There is no right of trespass. Vernal pools can be de-certified. The data sheets would have to be requested and the work re-assessed.
- Reviewed cutting plan for Rosenberg Road, Kelly property. The Commission should be receiving the cutting plan at the same time as the forester for review. May need permitting under WPA if work is in jurisdictional area and does not meet an agricultural exemption. Watch for change in use on the property (long term management to a building lot). Temporary crossing come out at the end of the project. If crossings are going to be permanent, they need to be permitted through Conservation.
- Discussed agricultural exemptions. The activity is exempt, not the land. Important to check timelines. If no agricultural activities have occurred for 5 years, there is no longer any exemption. Agricultural activities have a commercial purpose (not applicable to “hobby farms”).
- Reviewed current and revised stream crossing standards. During Irene, Vermont lost 15,000 crossings. Crossings that met the MA stream crossing standards held. Discussed top of bank vs. bankfull width. When evaluating replacement crossings, can take cost and practicality into account. With perched culverts, access for wildlife and fish is already impacted. Stormwater culverts do not have a size requirement. Try to bring the crossing into compliance if possible.
- Discussed stormwater concern on Brodie Mountain Road. M. Stinson believes the issue is likely not a Conservation Commission concern.
- Discussed options for upcoming meetings. J. Hickey recommended that Lee Hauge attend the November meeting to review the summer data on the lake. Including Andrew Madden, DCR, in the conversation would be helpful as we review data around the health of the lake. Inviting Forester Peter Grima was also discussed.

Adjourned 8:30 pm